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See previous “Documents on the Web” at  
<http://france.usembassy.gov/irc/intrelations/webalert/default.htm>



## **Africa**

### **♦ CONSOLIDATING PEACE IN SUDAN**

By Karin von Hippel with Sinead Hunt

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), March 17, 2006, 10 p.

[http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/0603\\_sudanfinal2.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/0603_sudanfinal2.pdf)

A Follow-on Report to the 2004 CSIS Publication, To Guarantee the Peace: An Action Strategy for a Post-Conflict Sudan.

## **Armed forces**

### **♦ CU @ THE FOB: HOW THE FORWARD OPERATING BASE IS CHANGING THE LIFE OF COMBAT SOLDIERS**

Dr. Leonard Wong, COL Stephen Gerras

United States Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute, March 2006, 41 p.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?PubID=645>

The situation in post-war Iraq is producing combat veterans accustomed to a perspective of combat that differs greatly from past wars. The Forward Operating Base (FOB) has become the mainstay of the U.S. presence in Iraq. The authors explore the facets of fighting from the FOB. Their research shows that the FOB gives soldiers the unprecedented advantage of gaining a respite from constant danger, minimizing the wearing effects of hunger and fatigue, and reducing the isolation of combat. As a result, many of the factors of psychological stress typically present in combat are greatly reduced. They also point out, however, that technology on the FOB allows soldiers to communicate frequently with home, shifting the family from an abstract to concrete concept in the minds of deployed soldiers. As a result, the competition between the family and Army for soldier time, commitment, loyalty, and energy is renewed.

## **Defense**

### **♦ NATIONAL MILITARY STRATEGY TO COMBAT WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

U.S. Department of Defense, Feb. 13, 2006, 31 p.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/pdf/NMS-CWMD2006.pdf>

The threat that adversaries might use weapons of mass destruction against the United States or its allies is rising, and defending against such weapons is becoming increasingly complex, says Marine General Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the preface to the newly released report. Published by the Defense Department, March 24, it offers guidance to the U.S.

military on how to guard against and counter the threat from chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

#### ◆ **NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY**

The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, March 16, 2006, 54 p.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss/2006/>

According to a White House fact sheet, the strategy is grounded in two central concepts:

- Promoting freedom, justice and human dignity -- Peace and international stability are built on a foundation of free nations. The United States will help nations to develop their own democratic institutions and prosperous societies.
- Leading the community of democratic nations to face emerging transnational threats -- Transnational problems, such as terrorism, proliferation of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, global pandemics, crime and corruption and large-scale natural disasters, require multinational solutions.

#### **Foreign Aid**

#### ◆ **RESTRUCTURING U.S. FOREIGN AID: THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**

Larry Nowels, Specialist in Foreign Affairs, and Connie Veillette, Analyst in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, March 24, 2006, 6 p.

See attachment

The creation of a new State Department position — Director of Foreign Assistance— has sparked congressional interest regarding the management and any possible future reform of U.S. foreign aid programs. Charged with coordinating U.S. assistance programs, the Director of Foreign Assistance (DFA) will have authority over most State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs, and will provide “guidance” to other agencies that manage foreign aid activities. Details of how the restructuring will operate have not been fully articulated. The restructuring is part of Secretary Rice’s “transformational development” initiative, that seeks to use foreign assistance to transform recipient countries’ economic development paths. While the restructuring initiative requires no legislative action, it raises a number of questions with regard to the management of foreign aid programs, funding levels, and future reform options. Previous Congresses and Administrations have proposed reforms to U.S. foreign aid programs, but those attempts were not successful. The Bush Administration had a more ambitious reform plan under consideration, but many elements were dropped from the announced restructuring. Executive officials say, however, that the current effort is the first step in a more thorough overhaul of U.S. foreign assistance.

#### ◆ **U.S. FOREIGN AID TO EAST AND SOUTH ASIA: SELECTED RECIPIENTS**

Thomas Lum, Specialist in Asian Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, Updated March 7, 2006, 40p.

See attachment

This report analyzes annual budget justifications and legislation for foreign operations and discusses U.S. foreign aid trends, programs, and restrictions in 16 East Asian and South Asian countries... Since September 2001, the United States has raised military, economic, and development assistance for anti-terrorism objectives in the East Asia-Pacific (EAP) and South Asia regions. Pakistan, India, the Philippines, and Indonesia have received the bulk of the increases in U.S. foreign assistance to EAP and South Asia since 2001.

◆ **U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Connie Veillette, Coordinator, Analyst in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division, et al.

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, Updated March 16, 2006, 35p.

[See attachment](#)

"For FY2006, U.S. assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean is estimated at \$1.68 billion, the largest portion of which is allocated to the Andean region — \$919 million. Mexico and Central America are slated to receive \$292 million, while the Caribbean would receive \$307 million. Brazil and the Southern Cone of South America are to receive an estimated \$36 million. The United States also maintains programs of a regional nature that total an estimated \$133 million in FY2006."

◆ **U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, RECENT TRENDS, AND THE FY2007 REQUEST**

Jeremy M. Sharp, Middle East Policy Analyst, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, Updated March 24, 2006, 31p.

[See attachment](#)

This report is an overview of U.S. foreign assistance to the Middle East from FY2002 to FY2006, and of the FY2007 budget request. It includes a brief history of aid to the region, a review of foreign aid levels, a description of selected country programs, and an analysis of current foreign aid issues.

◆ **U.S. OCCUPATION ASSISTANCE: IRAQ, GERMANY AND JAPAN COMPARED**

Nina Serafino, Curt Tarnoff, and Dick K. Nanto, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, March 23, 2006, 16 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RL33331.pdf>

This report provides aggregate data on U.S. assistance to Iraq and compares it with U.S. assistance to Germany and Japan during the seven years following World War II. U.S. aid allocations (all grant assistance) for Iraq appropriated from 2003 to 2006 total \$28.9 billion. About \$17.6 billion (62 percent) went for economic and political reconstruction assistance. The remaining \$10.9 billion (38 percent) was targeted at bolstering Iraqi security. A higher proportion of Iraqi aid has been provided for economic reconstruction of critical infrastructure than was the case for Germany and Japan. Total U.S. assistance to Iraq thus far is roughly equivalent to total assistance (adjusted for inflation) provided to Germany—and almost double that provided to Japan—from 1946-1952.

**Middle East**

◆ **IRAQI PERSPECTIVES PROJECT**

U.S. Department of Defense, Joint Center for Operational Analysis, March 24, 2006, 230p.

<http://www.jfcom.mil/newslink/storyarchive/2006/ipp.pdf>

U.S. Joint Forces Command's Joint Center for Operational Analysis has completed the unclassified historical report of military operations conducted in Iraq, reflecting the Iraqi civilian and military leadership's perspective of events.

◆ **THE U.S., THE EU AND MIDDLE EAST REFORM: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM MOROCCO?**

Michael J. Balz

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), March 13, 2006, 8 p.

[http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/03132006\\_moroccotripreport.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/03132006_moroccotripreport.pdf)

From January 29 - February 3, CSIS led a group of twelve American and European experts on a five-day study tour to Morocco to examine the issue of reform in the Arab world. The group, composed of leading specialists on development, European Union policy toward the Mediterranean world, the sociology of the Arab world, Morocco and the Middle East more broadly, first sought to analyze the reform process that Morocco has recently undertaken. Secondly, the group evaluated the international community's political and social development programs in Morocco, looking especially at potential cooperation and coordination between the United States, the EU and individual European countries.

## **NATO**

### **◆ TRANSATLANTIC TRANSFORMATION: BUILDING A NATO-EU SECURITY ARCHITECTURE**

Frances G. Burwell, David C. Gompert, Leslie S. Lebl, Jan M. Lodal, and Walter B. Slocombe.  
Atlantic Council of the United States, Policy Paper, March 2006, 51 p.  
[http://www.acus.org/docs/0603-Transatlantic\\_Transformation.pdf](http://www.acus.org/docs/0603-Transatlantic_Transformation.pdf)

NATO and the European Union must prepare now to work together in combined operations if they are to be effective in addressing the security questions of the 21st century. In Transatlantic Transformation: Building a NATO-EU Security Architecture, the authors argue that both NATO and the EU must develop mechanisms, such as joint planning and force generation, that will allow them to respond to a crisis in a coordinated way

## **Nonproliferation**

### **◆ COMBATING NUCLEAR SMUGGLING: CHALLENGES FACING U.S. EFFORTS TO DEPLOY RADIATION DETECTION EQUIPMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND IN THE UNITED STATES**

Statement of Gene Aloise, Director, Natural Resources and Environment  
GAO Testimony Before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Committee on Homeland, Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate  
United States Government Accountability Office, March 28, 2006, 17 p.  
<http://hsgac.senate.gov/files/STMTGAOALOISE.pdf>

This testimony describes the background and current state of U.S. programs "to combat nuclear smuggling through the employment of radiation detection equipment at border crossings and other ports of entry both in foreign countries and in the United States". It discusses progress made by the various federal agencies and cites challenges at foreign borders and ports such as corruption, difficulty in maintaining equipment, adverse weather conditions, and technical limitations.

### **◆ INDIA'S NUCLEAR SEPARATION PLAN: ISSUES AND VIEWS**

Sharon Squassoni, Specialist in National Defense, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade  
Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, March 3, 2006, 26 p.  
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/62747.pdf>

This report provides background on India's nuclear fuel cycle, a discussion of various issues involved in separating civilian and military nuclear facilities and potential concerns for Congress as it considers whether the United States has adequate assurances that its nuclear cooperation does not assist, encourage, or induce India's nuclear weapons development, production, or proliferation.

## **Peacekeeping**

## ◆ PEACEKEEPING AND RELATED STABILITY OPERATIONS: ISSUES OF U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

Nina M. Serafino, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, Issue Brief, Updated March 27, 2006, 19 p.

See attachment

With some policymakers and analysts arguing that the uncertainties of the post-September 11 world demand a greater U.S. commitment to curbing ethnic instability, a major issue Congress continues to face is what, if any, adjustments should be made in order for the U.S. military to perform peacekeeping and stability missions — in Afghanistan, Iraq, or elsewhere — with less strain on the force, particularly the reserves. Of particular interest is whether the size and configuration of U.S. forces, especially the Army, should be further modified. Additional issues are whether to augment civilian and international capabilities in order to take on more of the burden.

## Terrorism

### ◆ THE EVOLVING AL-QAEDA THREAT

James Phillips

Heritage Foundation, Heritage Lectures No. 928, March 17, 2006, 10 p.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=95223>

“Al-Qaeda is a transnational Sunni Islamist terrorist network operating in over 60 countries around the world. At the center of the web is the core group, which I will refer to as Al-Qaeda Central (AQC), a disciplined, highly professional cadre of committed revolutionaries, which now probably consists of fewer than 1,000 dedicated members, and perhaps fewer than 500. Although it has become the most hunted terrorist group in world history since its September 11, 2001, attacks and has been severely degraded by substantial losses, it remains a resilient and potent threat to the United States.”

### ◆ PREVENTING CATASTROPHIC NUCLEAR TERRORISM

Charles D. Ferguson

Council on Foreign Relations, Council Special Report (CSR) NO. 11, March 2006, 44 p.

<http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/NucTerrCSR.pdf>

Preventing Catastrophic Nuclear Terrorism makes clear what is needed to reduce the possibility of nuclear terrorism. It identifies where efforts have fallen short in securing and eliminating nuclear weapons and weapons-usable nuclear materials, and it offers realistic recommendations to plug these gaps in the U.S. and international response. In particular, the report argues that United States should pursue unilateral initiatives such as a clear declaration of retaliation against regimes aiding nuclear terrorists, multilateral initiatives that include increasing funding to the woefully underfunded International Atomic Energy Agency, and bilateral initiatives and dialogue, particularly with Pakistan and Russia. Implementing these practical steps could significantly reduce the risk of a catastrophic nuclear attack by terrorist groups.

This report is a clear primer on a critical subject and a set of practical proposals that policymakers would be wise to consider carefully. It is also a valuable resource for students and interested citizens alike.

## U.S.-Russia Relations

### ◆ RUSSIA'S WRONG DIRECTION: WHAT THE UNITED STATES CAN AND SHOULD DO

Chair: John Edwards, Jack Kemp; Director: Stephen Sestanovich, George F. Kennan Senior Fellow for Russian and Eurasian Studies

Council on Foreign Relations, Report of an Independent Task Force, 2006, 94 p.  
[http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Russia\\_TaskForce.pdf](http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Russia_TaskForce.pdf)

“U.S.-Russia cooperation can help the United States handle some of the most difficult issues we face,” said Senator John Edwards. “Yet regrettably, cooperation is becoming the exception, not the norm. This report is a wake-up call that we need to get U.S.-Russia relations back on track to meet the challenges that face both of our countries.”

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **◆ INFORMATION OPERATIONS: PUTTING THE “I” BACK INTO DIME**

Mr. Robert D. Steele

United States Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute, Feb. 2006, 84 p.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?PubID=642>

In the Age of Information, the primary source of National Power is information that has been converted into actionable intelligence or usable knowledge. Information Operations is the critical ingredient in early warning, peacekeeping, stabilization & reconstruction, and homeland defense.

#### **◆ TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME: PRINCIPAL THREATS AND U.S. RESPONSES**

John R. Wagley, Analyst in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, March 20, 2006, 24 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sfp/crs/natsec/RL33335.pdf>

This report examines the growing threat of transnational organized crime to U.S. national security and global stability. The end of the Cold War—along with increasing globalization beginning in the 1990s—has helped criminal organizations expand their activities and gain global reach.

The report also outlines the U.S. response to international crime. While U.S. policy is framed within the 1998 International Crime Control Strategy, it is also shaped by other more recent federal and agency plans. Agencies heading government efforts include the Departments of State, Defense, Justice, Treasury, and Homeland Security. Key federal programs and initiatives and their interagency coordination are discussed. International cooperation and agreements are vital to U.S. strategy; also, many programs seek to assist and train foreign law enforcement. Finally, this report examines likely Congressional concerns related to U.S. efforts to combat transnational crime.

**Visit the IRC website at**

**<http://france.usembassy.gov/irc/default.htm>**

